

REMARKS

A. Request for Reconsideration

Applicant has carefully considered the matters raised by the Examiner in the outstanding Office Action but remains of the position that patentable subject matter is present. Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the Examiner's position based on the following remarks.

B. Claim Status

Claims 5-9 are pending and presented for further prosecution. Claims 1-4 had been cancelled. No amendment to the claims was made in this response.

C. Claim Rejections under 35 USC § 102

Claims 5, 7 and 8 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Kelly. The Examiner cited fig. 1 of Kelly to teach a sink including all elements claimed in these claims, including a basin having a bottom with an opening and an open/close means provided at the side of the water storage vessel at space corresponding to the predetermined water level. Applicant respectfully disagrees.

Claim 5 recites "an open/close means provided at the side of said separation vessel for recovering said separated oil content floating, inside said separation vessel, at space corresponding to said predetermined water level". This is a unique design so that the oil content separated can be totally recovered by direct draining through such positioned opening.

No where in Kelly teaches an open/close means placed AT a space corresponding to predetermined water level. The part D2 is an opening well above the water level. It is designed for the overflow of the oil. A large portion of the separated oil is always left in the vessel and can not be totally recovered by draining through part D2.

Therefore, Kelly does not teach the above two unique features of claims 5, 7 and 8. Claims 5, 7 and 8 are patentable over Kelly.

D. Claim Rejections under 35 USC § 103

Claim 6 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kelly in view of Maranville, and Claim 9 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kelly in view of Hirshstein.

Claims 6 and 9 depends on Claim 5. As demonstrated above, Kelly does not teach the limitations of a basin having a bottom with an opening and an open/close means provided at the side of the water storage vessel at space corresponding to the predetermined water level. Maranville and Hirshstein do not teach or suggestion these features either.

Therefore, it is respectfully submitted the combination of Kelly and Maranville or Hirshstein does not render the subject matter in Claims 6 and 9 obvious.

Applicants respectfully submit that the cited references do not teach or suggest the claimed invention and the claims 5-9 are patentable over the cited references standing alone or in combination.

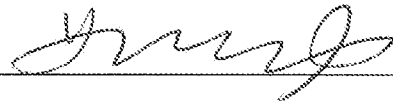
F. Conclusion

It is respectfully submitted that application is in condition for allowance, and such action is hereby requested.

Should any fees or extensions of time be necessary in order to maintain this Application in pending condition, appropriate requests are hereby made and authorization is given to debit account # 02-2275.

Respectfully submitted,

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